IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND Claims 26, 32, 33, 36, 37, and 39 as follows.

Please CANCEL Claims 30 and 31 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

1-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising the steps of:

applying a liquid, for ~~reacting with an~~ coagulating a colorant of ink, [[on]] onto an intermediate transfer body having a surface to which a hydrophilic treatment, where energy is applied to the surface, ~~by applying energy~~ has been performed;

forming an image by ejecting [[the]] ink from an ink jet head [[on]] onto the intermediate transfer body on which the liquid has been applied; and

transferring the image formed on the intermediate transfer body to a recording medium.

27. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 26, wherein the surface of the intermediate transfer body contains at least one of a fluorine compound and a silicone compound.

28. (Withdrawn) An image forming method according to claim 26, wherein the surface of the intermediate transfer body is formed of an elastic material with a hardness of between 10 and 100 degrees.

29. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 26, wherein the hydrophilic treatment comprises plasma processing.

30-31. (Cancelled).

32. (Currently Amended) An image forming method according to claim [[31]] 26, wherein the ~~component comprises~~ liquid contains metal ions as a component for coagulating the colorant.

33. (Currently Amended) An image forming method according to claim 26, further comprising a step of applying a wettability improving liquid, for improving [[a]] the wettability of the surface of the intermediate transfer body, prior to applying the liquid.

34. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 26, further comprising a step of promoting a removal of water from the ink on the intermediate transfer body prior to transferring the image to the recording medium.

35. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 26, further comprising a step of cleaning the surface of the intermediate transfer body.

36. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising the steps of:

performing plasma processing to a surface of an intermediate transfer body to make the surface hydrophilic;

applying a liquid, for ~~reacting with an~~ coagulating a colorant of ink, [[on]] onto the intermediate transfer body having the surface to which the plasma processing has been performed;

forming an image by ejecting [[the]] ink from an ink jet head [[on]] onto the intermediate transfer body on which the liquid has been applied; and

transferring the image formed on the intermediate transfer body to a recording medium.

37. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising the steps of:

performing plasma processing to a surface of an intermediate transfer body, the surface containing at least one of fluororubber and silicone rubber, to make the surface hydrophilic;

applying a liquid, for coagulating a colorant of ink, [[on]] onto the intermediate transfer body having the surface to which the plasma processing has been performed;

forming an image by ejecting ink from an ink jet head [[on]] onto the intermediate transfer body on which the liquid has been applied; and

transferring the image formed on the intermediate transfer body to a recording medium.

38. (Withdrawn) An image forming method comprising the steps of:

applying a liquid for reducing the fluidity of ink on an intermediate transfer body on which hydrophilic treatment of applying energy to the intermediate transfer body to make the intermediate transfer body hydrophilic has been performed;

forming an image by ejecting the ink from an ink jet head on the intermediate transfer body on which the liquid has been applied; and

transferring the image formed on the intermediate transfer body to a recording medium.

39. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising the steps of:

applying a liquid, for ~~reacting with an~~ coagulating a colorant of ink, [[on]] onto an intermediate transfer body to which a hydrophilic treatment by plasma processing has been performed;

forming an image by ejecting [[the]] ink from an ink jet head [[on]] onto the intermediate transfer body on which the liquid has been applied; and

transferring the image formed on the intermediate transfer body to a recording medium.

40. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to Claim 39, wherein the surface contains at least one of fluororubber and silicone rubber.

41. (Withdrawn) An image forming method comprising the steps of:

applying a liquid for reacting with ink on an intermediate transfer body on which hydrophilic treatment by application of energy to the intermediate transfer body has been performed;

forming an image by ejecting the ink from an ink jet head on the intermediate transfer body on which the liquid has been applied; and

transferring the image formed on the intermediate transfer body to a recording medium.

42. (Withdrawn) The image forming method according to Claim 41, wherein the intermediate transfer body has a non-ink absorbing surface.

43. (Withdrawn) The image forming method according to Claim 41, wherein the intermediate transfer body has a surface with releasability.

44. (Withdrawn) The image forming method according to Claim 41, wherein the liquid contains a component for coagulating a colorant of the ink.

45. (Withdrawn) The image forming method according to Claim 41, wherein the liquid is applied by a liquid applying roller.

46. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to Claim 26, further comprising a step of performing the hydrophilic treatment to the surface of the intermediate transfer body.